

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**CLOSURE OF WATERS WEST OF SEAL CAPE
TO TANNER CRAB FISHING IN THE CHIGNIK DISTRICT**

EMERGENCY ORDER NO. 4-S-11-12

In the Chignik District, all waters west of a line of longitude originating at Seal Cape (158° 26.00' W. long.) will close to Tanner crab fishing at 5:59 p.m. on Tuesday, January 31, 2012. Catch reports indicate harvest in this area will approach survey estimates of allowable Tanner crab surplus. Further harvest is not warranted to protect the long-term health of the Tanner crab stock.

All pots within the closed area must be unbaited and doors open at the time of the closure. Unbaited pots may be stored in the closed area in waters deeper than 25 fathoms for 72 hours. After 72 hours, all pots remaining in the closed area must be removed from the water or placed in waters shallower than 25 fathoms. Vessel operators are not required to deliver crab harvested from the closed area prior to targeting Tanner crab in other areas of the Chignik District that remain open to Tanner crab fishing.